

## Evaluating State Water Monitoring and Assessment Programs and Strategies WORKSHOP DISCUSSION NOTES

### Needs/Challenges/Concerns:

- What's the point of writing a Strategy when a resource shortfall remains?
- Examples of other States' strategies (drafts, comments, etc.); it would help to learn HOW other states have done this, as well as WHAT they've done
- Clarify/communicate EPA expectations to management
- Listserv or website to facilitate info exchange among states (or distribute a CD with templates to Regions to pass on to State coordinators), but don't forget about importance of state-to-state discussion (see ASIWPCA)
- Consistent Regional expectations
- Questions states should ask to focus on the right issues
- Education for stakeholders
- Review comments on drafts, e.g. prioritization – share EPA reviews
- EPA should avoid pass/fail approach; it's better to evaluate progress and be aware of vulnerabilities
- Must learn to strike a balance between identifying gaps and continuing to build/maintain programs
- Push the need for better monitoring “at the top” – get directors and other higher-ups to participate and take ownership
- Build constituencies outside the agencies (volunteer monitoring)
- Document state legislature support (other states might follow example)
- Inform/educate state legislatures
- Need a NATIONAL monitoring strategy (EPA, USGS, NOAA, FWS, USFS, etc.) that addresses bigger picture issues that states can't deal with and then promote this to Congress, etc. – this is a potential project for NWQMC
  - o ITFM did write a national strategy but it's probably time to reevaluate this.
- EPA should pull together good monitoring example for “marketing” – help states sell value
- State contractors/grantees need to be managed
- States feel vulnerable when identifying weaknesses (lawsuits, etc.) – the Regions need to be supportive. However, it is important for states to highlight these shortcomings as long as they can defend why they are weaknesses.
- Now that EPA has identified monitoring as a top priority, they need help raising this issue and bringing national attention to it – Any ideas on how and where to they can do this?